THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information on windmills in Delhi has been included in a brochure on new and renewable sources of energy, brought out by the Delhi Energy Development Agency.

(c) and (d) A Handbook on "Wind Energy Data for India" was published under a project sponsored by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources which gives a broad indication of the windy locations in the country. Wind survey projects have also been taken up subsequently in 16 States/ Union Territories of the country to provide more detailed information.

Execution of Power Projects with joint Assistance

4517. SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the power projects which are at present being executed with joint assistance from foreign Governments and consortia;

(b) what are the names of the power projects for which additional assistance has been sought for under similar arrangements; and

(c) whether a foreign Government/consortium extending assistance can nominate/select a particular power project and if not, what is the policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Optical fibre cable systems for Delhi and Bombay Telephones

4518. SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had floated a Global Tender No. 15-3/86-MMD(opened on 6.10.87) under World Bank loan for the supply of Optical Fibre Cable System to the Delhi and Bombay Telecommunications organisations;

(b) if so, whether Government have been forced under the Japanese aid-giving organisations advice to place the entire order last month to NEC of Japan as a package deal and thereby incur considerable extra expense of at least Rs. 3 crores in foreign exchange;

(c) whether Government are aware that NEC has paid a substantial sum as consultancy fee in foreign exchange to a non-descript Indian firm which is supposed to have advise! NEC on the modus-operandi of winning this valuable contract; and

(d) whether Government propose to instruct NEC to reduce the cost of the package deal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No. Sir.

Reception of Signals from Insat

4519. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether WPC wing of his Ministry has amended the rules thereby allowing reception of signals directly from INSAT 1 B and also introduced licensing provisions for TVs and VCRs to receive such signals;

(b) what is the number of applications received for such licences since the Introduction of the amendment and the number of licences issued to the manufacturers and users separately;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in isseuing licences to all the applicants; and

(d) whether some complaints have been received to the effect that the licence issuing authorities harass the applicants by adopting delaying tactics and if so, what action Government have taken to streamline the procedure?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir, presently the reception of signals from Indian domestic satellites (INSAT) only is permitted; after obtaining necessary licence.

(b) to (d) The Department of Telecommunications has decided that operating licences for TV or VCR sets used or capable of being used for reception of the television programme direct from INSAT will be issued by the concerned Divisional Engineer Telegraph/Telecom, District Manager/General Manager Telephones. The possession licence or dealer licence are to be issued by the concerned General Manager Telecom/Telephones. The details pertaining to item No. (b), (c) & (d) are being collected from the field units and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

Contract for Mahanadi Offshore Oil Exploration

4520. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a contract for oil exploration in the Mahanadi offshore in the Bay of Bengal has recently been signed;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when the contract is likely to be implemetend; and

(d) What is the approximate amount involved in off shore dirilling in the above area?